

September 2025



THE PARTNERSHIP

GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER - VOL. 105 NO. 09





Dear Members and Friends,

More Than a Game: The Impact of Our Annual Chamber Golf Classic

On August 15, the Greater Burlington Partnership hosted one of our most anticipated traditions, the Chamber Golf Classic. With 144 golfers, the day was a perfect mix of sunshine, laughter, and friendly competition. We could not have asked for better weather, and the Burlington Golf Club had the flowers all in bloom for our viewing pleasure! Thanks to our amazing sponsors, each hole featured a unique twist that kept everyone smiling between swings. Golfers competed for top honors in four different flights, and of course, bragging

rights were on the line for the various "hole games" scattered throughout the course. In addition, Huffman's Farm & Home handed out \$100 every 100 minutes. Winning money is so much fun!

We loved seeing a mix of golfers on the course - seasoned players with smooth swings to "first-timers" and those who clearly don't play on a regular basis (and weren't afraid to laugh at themselves). That blend of skill levels is part of what makes the Chamber Golf Classic so special - it's about having fun, building relationships, and enjoying the day together, no matter your handicap.

My personal favorite? On hole five, golfers could pay to have a golf pro take their drive for them. Let's just say, it is humbling to see how far a ball can go when the right person is swinging the club! We appreciate Southeastern Community College for supplying two members from their golf team to make hole #5 memorable!

Beyond the birdies, bogeys, mulligans, and the "gimmes," the Golf Classic is about connections and conversations sparked between putts. The relationships formed on fairways, and the community spirit that extends far beyond the 18th green, remind us that when we come together, great things happen both on and off the course.

A special thank-you goes to our Golf Classic Committee, whose behind-the-scenes work made the day seamless. From placing sponsorship signs in the right spots, to filling swag bags with goodies, to welcoming every participant at check-in, their attention to detail and hard work ensured that the event was not only well-organized but also memorable.

Congratulations to Heath Hillyard and Summer Street Animal Clinic for fielding the winning team (again!) this year. We look forward to seeing you on the greens again next year!

With gratitude,

President & CEO
Greater Burlington Partnership

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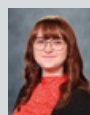
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ON THE COVER

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GOLF CLASSIC

For 25 years, the Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic has brought together members for a day of networking, team building, and friendly competition. More than just a round of golf, the event provides an opportunity for businesses to strengthen client relationships, reward employees, and connect with fellow members in a relaxed setting. A big thank you goes out to all of the participants and generous sponsors who help make this summer tradition such a success year after year. Be ready this fall to secure your team reservation for the 2026 Golf Classic!

Photo Caption:

The Connection Bank team lines prepares to putt during the 2025 Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic.

TASTE THE LOCAL FLAVOR DURING **GREATER BURLINGTON RESTAURANT WEEK 2025**

Support Chamber member restaurants, discover new favorites, and vote for a chance to win big September 11 to 21.

Greater Burlington Restaurant Week returns September 11 to 21, 2025, offering a delicious opportunity to support local businesses while enjoying some of the area's best cuisine. Organized by Titan Broadcasting & Digital Group, home of The New Mix 107.3, KGRS, and 101.7 The Bull, KBKB, and proudly sponsored by the Greater Burlington Partnership, this annual event shines a spotlight on the region's vibrant food scene.

Throughout the 11-day event, participating restaurants will feature limited-time specials and prix fixe menu offerings priced at \$10, \$15, and \$30. Whether diners choose to enjoy their meals in person or take them to go, they're encouraged to scan the QR code displayed at participating locations to cast their votes for favorite dishes, drinks, and establishments across several categories.

All promotions, menus, and prize information will be available at GreaterBurlingtonRestaurantWeek.com as the event approaches. Stay tuned for participating restaurant announcements, and get ready to dine, vote, and win.

Each vote cast doubles as an entry to win the grand prize: a \$25 gift certificate to every participating restaurant.

To help maximize visibility, participating Chamber of Commerce members will receive custom designed menus printed by the Partnership as part of their membership benefits. In addition, restaurants earning top honors will be featured with enhanced listings in the 2026 Greater Burlington Community Profile.

The following are Chamber of Commerce member businesses that are participating: The Beancounter Coffeehouse & Drinkery, Billy Sims BBQ, Boogaloo Sports Bar & Grill, The Broadway, The Busted Cup Brewhouse, La Boheme, Mississippi Moon Ice Cream Parlor, The Outpost Bar and Grill, Wingstop.

For a complete list of participating locations and restaurant week menus, visit GreaterBurlingtonRestaurantWeek.com.



BUSINESS *after* HOURS

Addington Place of Burlington
5175 West Ave, Burlington | September 11, 5 - 7 PM

Join Chamber of Commerce member businesses to network and make new connections at Business After Hours!





2025
MANUFACTURERS
APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

OCTOBER 3



Scan to Register

SAVE THE DATE



Mike O'Donnell
Director of CIRAS, Iowa State University

The Greater Burlington Partnership invites you to the annual Manufacturers Appreciation Luncheon, celebrating the vital role of manufacturing in the Greater Burlington community.

This year we are honored to have a keynote presentation, The Future of Manufacturing by Mike O'Donnell, Director of CIRAS at Iowa State University, where the team works alongside Iowa manufacturers to solve problems, strengthen operations, and prepare for what's next.

Attendees will enjoy lunch, visiting sponsor booths, and celebrate the announcement of the 2025 Manufacturer of the Year award.

Attendance is free for Chamber members, but RSVP is required by September 26.

Register by scanning the QR code, visiting GreaterBurlington.com/Register, or contact Mac Holford at mholford@greaterburlington.com.



PARTNERSHIP CALLING FOR BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

The Boards of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development are looking for candidates who are interested in establishing the direction and policies for the organization. The nominating committees seek candidates with a variety of perspectives who will serve from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2029. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the Partnership for more information.

MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

We're excited to welcome members, their staff, and their families to our first-ever fall Member Appreciation Event! Join us for a relaxed evening at Harvestville Farms for a chance to unwind, celebrate the season, and spend time with fellow members outside the office.

For those looking to explore even more, wristbands can be purchased at the door for access to the farm's favorite activities, including the corn maze, tractor rides, flower field, pumpkin patch, and more.

For more information, and to RSVP or purchase food in advance, visit the event page at GreaterBurlington.com/MemberEvent or use the QR code below.



THURS,
OCT 23

5:30 - 7
PM

1977 Hwy 2, Donnelson, IA 52625

RSVP AT GREATERBURLINGTON.COM/MEMBEREVENT



DOWNTOWN DEETS TRAINING



CYBERSECURITY

ESSENTIALS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 | 8:30 – 9:30 AM

GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP OFFICE



Downtown Partners, Inc. invites Downtown business owners and Chamber members to the next Downtown Deets professional development session, focused on one of the most pressing concerns for today's business landscape: Cybersecurity.

Hosted by the Economic Vitality Committee, this informative session will be held on Friday, September 19 at 8:30 AM at the Greater Burlington Partnership office.

The session will be led by **Todd M. Ackerman, President – Iowa Unit Leader for World Insurance Associates**. With over 28 years of experience in the insurance and financial services industry, Ackerman provides strategic insight and real-world expertise in cybersecurity and risk management. He previously served as President and CEO of Two Rivers Insurance Services, where he helped grow the firm into a multi-dimensional provider of benefits, property and casualty insurance, and risk solutions for businesses and individuals.

Ackerman holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma City University, along with a Commercial Lines Coverage Specialist designation. He also serves on the Downtown Partners, Inc. Board and coaches the Burlington Notre Dame girl's high school soccer team.

Attendees will gain insight into:

- Common cybersecurity risks targeting small businesses
- Steps to protect customer data and company systems
- How to recognize phishing attempts and scams
- Best practices for staff training and password management
- What to do if your business experiences a cyber attack

This session offers practical takeaways for owners, managers, and anyone responsible for safeguarding customer data and business systems.

RSVP by September 16 to Amy Moyner at amoyner@greaterburlington.com. Space is limited, reserve your spot today.

Join Downtown Partners, Inc. and fellow business leaders as we strengthen our local economy by building a safer, smarter business community.



RSVP Here!

Downtown Burlington

BURLINGTON

It's Happening

SIP TASTE & STROLL DOWNTOWN



SEPTEMBER 12, 5 - 8 PM
JOIN DOWNTOWN PARTNERS, Inc.

For samples of wine, beer, and spirits while
sampling some **NEW TASTES** and browsing the
great shops of Downtown Burlington!

After Party Last Stop at Farney's

Sponsor: **Farmers & Merchants Bank & Trust**



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PARTNERS**
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A DIVISION OF THE GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP

GreaterBurlington.com



SCAN ME



MAY - SEPTEMBER: THURSDAYS 4:30 - 7 PM

**JEFFERSON STREET FARMERS MARKET
DON'T MISS THE PET PARADE SEPTEMBER 18TH!**

September's Jefferson Street Farmers Market is rolling into fall with fresh flavors, furry friends, and plenty of fun! As the season changes, shoppers can look forward to the arrival of colorful squash, pumpkins, and other autumn harvest favorites. Pet lovers won't want to miss the lively Pet Parade, a community favorite that always brings smiles to market night.

This is also your last chance in the month of September to stock up on fresh produce, handmade baked goods, local meats, and other market treasures while enjoying the unbeatable sense of community that makes Thursday nights on Jefferson Street so special. From delicious flavors to unique artisan finds, every purchase supports local growers, makers, and bakers. The month of September is proudly presented by Shottenkirk Superstore, adding even more excitement to Downtown Burlington's favorite weekly tradition.

For more information, visit GreaterBurlington.com or follow Downtown Burlington, Iowa on social media.

SEPTEMBER PREMIER SPONSOR:



LIVE MUSIC:

September 4

Diane DeJaynes

September 11

Jared Rouggy

September 18

John Heasley

Free Horse & Trolley Rides

Pet Parade

September 25

It's Electric Entertainment

ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR:



WITCHES NIGHT OUT - SAVE THE DATE | OCTOBER 17, 5 - 8 PM



ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR:



LAST STOP THANK YOU TO: **THE BUSTED CUP BREWHOUSE**

**DPI CALLING FOR
BOARD OF DIRECTOR
NOMINATIONS**

The Board of Directors for Downtown Partners, Inc. is looking for candidates who are interested in establishing the direction and policies of the organization. The nominating committee seeks candidates with a variety of perspectives who will serve from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2028. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Amy Moyner, Downtown Partners, Inc., amoyner@greaterburlington.com for more information.

Downtown Partners, Inc. is a volunteer-driven Main Street Program established to preserve and revitalize downtown Burlington while improving the quality of life for the community.



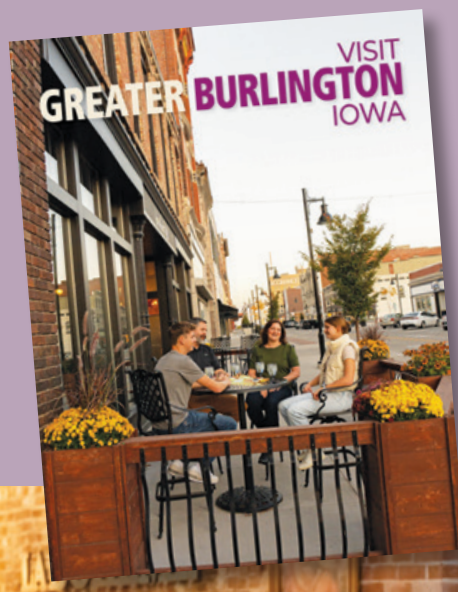
Are you looking for a way to engage your staff in the community? Do you have a particularly competitive team?



This fall, join us for the first Greater Burlington Community Cup challenge, a six-week competition designed to bring businesses, nonprofits, and organizations together in a friendly competition. Teams of 2 - 6 can earn points by completing activities such as attending community events, volunteering, or getting active outdoors.

At the end of the challenge, the team with the most points will take ownership of the traveling Community Cup trophy until 2026.

Find more information at GreaterBurlington.com/CommunityCup. Competition begins September 14.



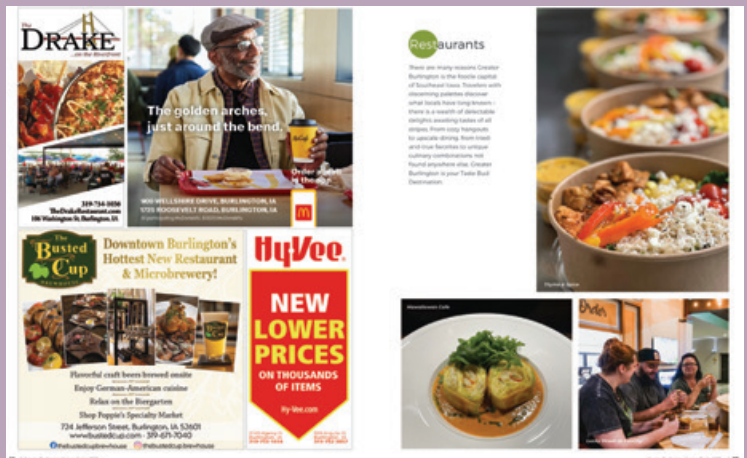
BE SEEN IN 2026: Advertise in the Visitors Guide!

Reach travelers before they even arrive by advertising in the 2026 Greater Burlington Visitors Guide!

Distributed to welcome centers across the state, displayed prominently in area businesses and hotels, and accessible online all year long, the guide is a key resource for visitors planning their trip to Greater Burlington.

With thousands of annual readers, it's the perfect opportunity to showcase your business, attract new customers, and be part of what makes Greater Burlington a destination worth discovering.

Space is limited, contact Melissa Jones, mjones@greaterburlington.com, to secure your ad today and get noticed by those ready to explore, shop, dine, and stay in our vibrant community.



Teachers Appreciation Reception

SAVE THE DATE: Area Educator Expo - October 31

Mark your calendar for the annual Teachers Appreciation Reception, taking place October 31 from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM at the newly renovated Burlington High School Cafeteria. Held in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Des Moines County Educator Conference, this high-impact, expo-style event gives your business access to nearly 600 teachers and administrators from Burlington, Danville, Mediapolis, West Burlington, and Notre Dame schools.

It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase your products, services, or programs and support educators and classrooms, all while building connections with the future workforce. Your participation also shows appreciation for local teachers — and many businesses choose to bring swag or giveaway baskets as a fun way to say thank you.

THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM SPONSORS:

*Buena Vista University
KimAnne Portrait Design*

**Reserve your booth today by contacting
Melissa Jones at mjones@greaterburlington.com.
SPOTS WILL FILL QUICKLY!**



Disability Awareness Tap Into More Workforce Potential

Join us for Disability Awareness Training on **October 16 from 9 AM to noon** in the Wineyard Room at the Greater Burlington Partnership. Presented in collaboration with IowaWORKS and the Greater Burlington Partnership and Lee County EDG, this interactive session will help employers recognize unconscious biases, understand disability laws and etiquette, and learn practical strategies to create a more inclusive and productive workplace.

Contact Teli Van Rycke, tvanyrycke@greaterburlington.com, for more information.

TIME FOR A QUICK INFO CHECK

Teamwork Makes the Info Work

Did you know you can add employees to your Info Hub profile? That means your team can stay in the loop on events, updates, and perks — no more forwarding emails! Take a minute to add your crew and keep your info fresh. It's a win for everyone.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new Chamber of Commerce members by sending an email, liking their Facebook page or visiting their website. Even better, stop by to introduce yourself, exchange business cards and help grow their network as well as your own!

Des Moines County Energy District Burlington

Des Moines County Energy District is a local nonprofit working to advance affordable, clean, community-based energy solutions. Through planning, education, and local partnerships, DMCED helps homes, businesses, and institutions thrive while building a more resilient and sustainable future for Des Moines County.

ZenBusiness

ZenBusiness.com

ZenBusiness helps entrepreneurs start, run, and grow with AI tools and expert support. All in one place.

Hetta Gilbert

Burlington, HhettaGilbert@gmail.com

Hetta Gilbert is dedicated to supporting the health and well-being of children in Des Moines County. The organization provides financial assistance for essential health-related expenses, helping ensure every child can access the care they deserve.

For more information, or to schedule a ribbon cutting, contact Melissa Jones at mjones@greaterburlington.com

RIBBON CUTTINGS & CELEBRATORY EVENTS



**WINGSTOP
GRAND OPENING / NEW LOCATION**



**CATFISH BEND CASINO
REMODEL**

2026 MARKETING & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

It's almost time for our Total Resource Campaign (TRC) - your once-a-year chance to grab exclusive sponsorships and advertising spots for 2026. Think of it as your all-in-one marketing shopping spree without the pushy sales pitches all year long. Last year's sponsors get "right of first refusal" before we open the doors to everyone else. Watch your inbox for an email to confirm your picks or schedule an appointment.

The newly revamped 2026 Marketing & Sponsorship Opportunities catalog will hit your mailbox soon and will also be posted on our website.

Contact Melissa Jones, mjones@greaterburlington.com, with questions or interest.

Want to See
Your AD Here



Contact: Melissa Jones
mjones@greaterburlington.com

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KICKOFF YOUR CAREER AT THE SOUTHEAST IOWA JOB FAIR



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

Employers register by
September 5 by scanning
the QR Code above.

**SEPTEMBER, 18 FROM 10 AM TO 1 PM
WESTLAND MALL**

Kick off your hiring goals at the Southeast Iowa Job Fair! Meet motivated jobseekers, promote your openings, and connect with community partners - all in one place.

It's a great way to grow your workforce and raise visibility. *Mark your calendar!*



For more information please contact:

Brandi Haight at brandi.haight@iwd.iowa.gov

Shayla Taeger, shayla.taeger@iwd.iowa.gov

CHAMBER AMBASSADORS

Spotlight



JERICA JOHNSON

PROJECT MANAGER
ENERGYEFFICIENT SYSTEMS INC.

As a Project Manager at Energyefficient Systems, I work with our team to deliver energy efficiency solutions for our clients, from survey and design to engineering, materials supply, and installation. I love that my day-to-day work directly impacts the community I grew up in. Energyefficient proudly helps light many unique Burlington landmarks and recently I was able to help manage the lighting installation at Snake Alley.

I became a Chamber Ambassador in February of this year out of a desire to give back to my community while simultaneously learning more about the businesses and people that help make it thrive.

My husband Danny and I live in rural Mediapolis where we're raising two wild boys, Tripp (5) and Cliff (3). In our spare time you're likely to find us boating on the Mississippi, playing games at Fun City, or enjoying one of downtown Burlington's awesome restaurants. I'm proud to be a Chamber Ambassador and look forward to continuing serving Southeast Iowa.

SEPTEMBER september

View more events at
GreaterBurlington.com/Events

EVENTS

1 and 11 - Viking Mississippi
Port of Burlington, 8 AM
GreaterBurlington.com

3, 10, 17 and 24 - Historic
Newspaper Reading
Des Moines County Historical Society
10 AM
DMCHS.org

3, 10, 17 and 24 - Burlington History Club
Des Moines County Historical Society
11:30 AM
DMCHS.org

4 - West Burlington Coffee &
Conversation
Gear Avenue Trailhead, 8 AM
WestBurlingtonIowa.gov

4, 11, 18 and 25 - Jefferson Street
Farmers Market
Downtown Burlington, 4:30 - 7 PM
facebook.com/DowntownBurlingtonIAMarket

4 - Think Tank Thursday
Night Cap Listening Lounge, 6 PM
BurlingtonCapitolTheater.com

4 - Brews & Qs
Busted Cup Brewhouse, 7 PM
BustedCup.com

5 - First Friday: National Czech &
Slovak Museum
Burlington Public Library, 10 AM
Burlington.Lib.ia.us

5 and 19 - Friday Night Art Hop
Art Center of Burlington, 6 PM
BTownArt.com

6 - Twisted Cat Fishing Tournament
Port of Burlington, 5 AM
TwistedCatOutdoors.com

6 - That's Yesterday's News
Burlington Public Library, 10 AM
Burlington.Lib.ia.us

6 - Free Movie: Fright Night
Capitol Theater, 7 PM
BurlingtonCapitolTheater.com

7 - Hook & Hunt University: Dove Hunt
Starr's Cave Nature Center, 5:30 PM
facebook.com/StarrsCaveNatureCenter

12 - Sip, Taste & Stroll
Downtown Burlington, 5 - 8 PM
facebook.com/DowntownBurlingtonIowa

13 - Sunset on the Pasture
Hinterland Dairy, 5:30 PM
HinterlandDairy.com

September 14 - October 23
Greater Burlington Community Cup
GreaterBurlington.com

14 - All About Monarchs
Big Hollow Creek Recreation Area
11 am - 12:30 PM
facebook.com/StarrsCaveNatureCenter

14 - SEISO Pops: A Bohemian
Rhapsody in Blue
Capitol Theater, 6:30 PM
SEISO.us

16 - Ladies Adventure Group:
Monarch Tagging
Starrs Cave Nature Center, 9:30 AM
facebook.com/StarrsCaveNatureCenter

18 - Southeast Iowa Job Fair
Westland Mall, 10 AM
GreaterBurlington.com

18 - Hook & Hunt University: Clay Shoot
Yarmouth Gun Club, 6 PM
facebook.com/StarrsCaveNatureCenter

19 - 22 - Friends of the Library Book Sale
Burlington Public Library, 9 AM
Burlington.Lib.ia.us

20 - Great River Bridge Race
Port of Burlington, 9 AM
facebook.com/BurlingtonParksDept

20 - Sounds of the Past
Des Moines County Historical Society
10 AM
DMCHS.org

20 - Humane Society Car Show
West Burlington Community Park, 10 AM
DMCHS.org

20 - River Days LITE
Burlington riverfront, 4:30 PM
BurlingtonRiverDays.com

20 - Decade of Decadence
Capitol Theater, 7:30 PM
BurlingtonCapitolTheater.com

24 - Shepherd's Table Free
Community Meal
First Congregational Church, 4:30 PM
FCCBurlington.org

24 - Ladies Adventure Group:
Wildflower Hike
Big Hollow Creek Recreation Area, 5 PM
DMCConservation.com

25 - Open Mic Comedy Night
Night Cap Listening Lounge, 7 PM
BurlingtonCapitolTheater.com

25 - The Secret Agents
Capitol Theater, 7 PM
BurlCivicMusic.com

26 - Emergency Preparedness
Greater Burlington Partnership
8:30 - 9:30 AM
GreaterBurlington.com

27 - 360 Fall Haul
34 Raceway, 5 PM
34Raceway.com

28 - Hook & Hunt University: Squirrel
Hunt Scramble
Kevin J Gahn Wildlife Refuge, 8 AM
facebook.com/StarrsCaveNatureCenter

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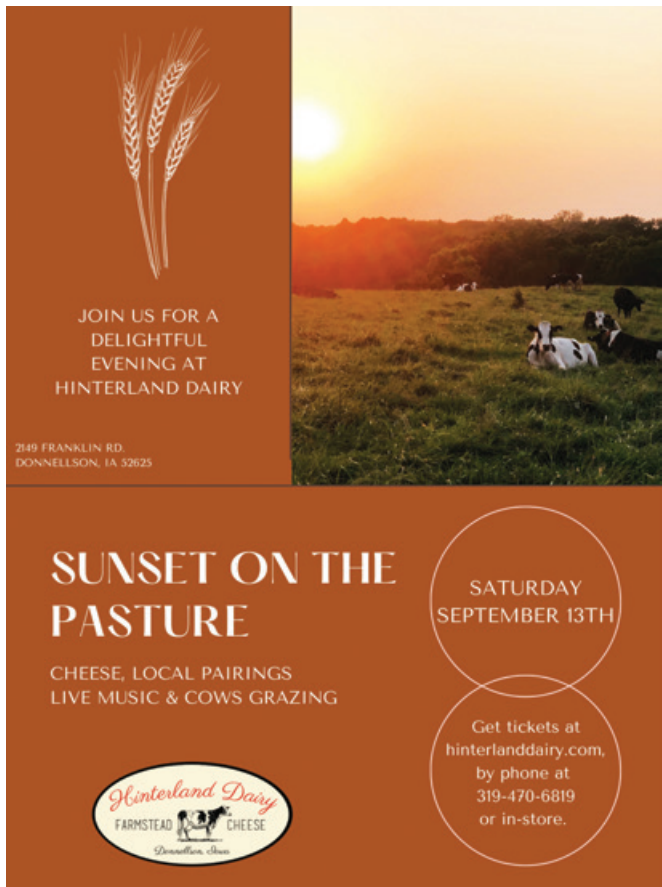
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SEPTEMBER 13TH

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**WEST BURLINGTON
COFFEE & CONVERSATION**
SEPTEMBER 4, 8 - 10 PM
GEAR AVENUE TRAIL HEAD, 550 S. GEAR AVENUE

Join West Burlington City Officials for "Coffee & Conversation". No agenda or speeches - just a chance to meet your local city officials. Share your thoughts, ideas, and ask questions about your community while enjoying a fresh cup of coffee! This event is open to the public.

For more information, follow the City of West Burlington on Facebook or visit: WestBurlingtonIowa.gov.

GREAT RIVER BRIDGE RACE
SEPTEMBER 20 | 9 AM - 12 PM | GREAT RIVER BRIDGE

Hosted in Burlington, the event features a 10K run, 5K run/walk, and a Bridge Walk, making it accessible for all ages and fitness levels.

This longstanding community tradition combines fitness, scenic views, and fun, drawing participants from across the region.

All race proceeds benefit the Burlington Parks and Recreation Department, so YOU will help create a lasting impact for everyone in our community.

To register or for more information, visit: RunSignUp.com/Race/IA/Burlington/GreatRiverBridgeRace.



GT Great Tastes

GOOD FOOD. COLD DRINKS. LIVE MUSIC. GREAT PEOPLE

FRIDAY, NOV 7, 6PM
Doors open at 5:30 PM
Catfish Bend Convention & Event Center

Proceeds support student scholarships and important college initiatives.

Auction contributions welcome. Call Rebecca at (319) 208-5066.

Scan for tickets and info or visit scciowa.edu/greattastes
www.scciowa.edu/foundation

SCC | **SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION**



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Submit member information, to Brenda Levitt at blevitt@greaterburlington.com



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